



Central Region Hometown Health Improvement News

December 2011

Consider Child Safety For Holiday Toys

The top 5 toy hazards:

- Scooters and other Riding Toys – Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be worn at all times and be sized to fit.
- Small Balls and other Toys with Small Parts – For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.
- Balloons - Children under eight yrs. can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Keep un-inflated balloons from children. Discard broken balloons at once.
- Magnets – For children under age six, avoid building or play sets with small magnets. If magnets or pieces with magnets are swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.
- Chargers and Adapters – Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.

Once the gifts are open:

- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become dangerous play things.
- Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.
Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent over charging.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission CPSC or <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prereel/>



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Safe & Happy Holidays to All

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL TEACHERS GET TRAINING



Central Region recently hosted Healthy Lungs and Healthy Skin training for upper elementary and middle school science teachers in the Little Rock School District.

Dr. Bob Burns, a professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences with UAMS regularly provides the workshops for teachers around the state. The goal of this very interactive training is to increase the teacher's knowledge of functional anatomy and the major diseases of each, including cancer

and emphysema.

Each of the fifteen teachers participating in the workshop received a resource kit with several visual aids, models, and classroom activities. One seventh grade science teacher stated, "This is one of the most valuable trainings I've had recently. The resources are going to be very valuable to me."

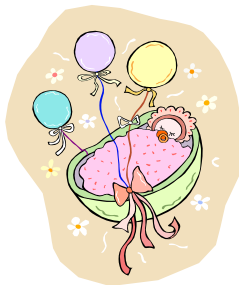


Conway Cradle Care offers Outreach to Teen Mothers

Conway Cradle Care is a non-profit organization located in Conway, Arkansas. Its goal is to help male and female teens, who have a child complete their high school education by providing mentoring for the teens and safe, quality, state certified, low-cost childcare for the infants and toddlers. Dee Dee Wallace, Health Educator with Hometown Health Improvement was invited to speak to teen mothers at Vilonia High School regarding Infant Safety. The presentation included

information regarding child passenger safety, sleep safety, SIDS and home safety. Conway Cradle

Care currently has a mentoring program serving pregnant and parenting teens in Vilonia, Mayflower, Conway, and Guy Perkins and is working to establish the teen mentoring program in each high school district in Faulkner County. Conway Cradle Care also operates a child care facility in Conway and encourages the teens in their efforts to get an advanced education.



Grant County to Work on Health People 2020

The Grant County Hometown Health Improvement Coalition has included in their work plan a campaign to publicize the need for better medical access in their county. Grant County individuals are limited to doctor's hours during the work week for any medical care. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the only option after hours or on the weekend. The assessment phase of this work plan begins January 2012.



Members of the Cabot Lion's Club heard Hometown Health Specialist Bonnie Clinton present on the latest trends in new tobacco products.



The tobacco industry spends twelve billion dollars a year on advertising and one can certainly see the tricks of the trade in how the industry has handled

packaging tobacco products. A pack of gum and a pack of cigarettes can now be similar in size and color. You might think someone is holding a lipstick box when it is actually a pack of Virginia Slims. Pairing the look of “safe” items with those that are harmful to your health has become commonplace. There are also new spitless products available: “Sticks”, “Orbs” and “Strips” and “Snus”.

Ms. Clinton emphasized the danger of ingestion to young children since these newer items sometimes look like candy. A small child can overdose from the amount of nicotine in some of these products.

Lion's Club members asked good questions and took home information about the SOS quitline:

1-800-quit now.



Pictured below are members of the Cabot Lion's Club



Saline Works to Become Storm Ready

Saline County is waiting to take the practical exam towards becoming “Storm Ready Certified”. This action is a part of a plan put forth by the Community Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee of the Saline County Hometown Health Coalition. The subcommittee’s goal is to open an unaffiliated volunteer reception center for use during emergency situations in Saline County.



National Weather Service



www.nws.noaa.gov

Grant County Hosts Red Ribbon Carnival

The Grant County Hometown Health Improvement Coalition collaborated with Grant County Youth Board and hosted a RED RIBBON Carnival for children on October 31 as an alternative to trick or treating. Games, food, fun, and information, were donated from local businesses, organizations, and churches. Hometown Health provided education and distributed activity books on tobacco and other drugs.



Midtown Health Alliance Installs New Officers



Midtown Health Alliance held their last meeting of the year in November with the installation of new officers. The group also hosted a potluck brunch to celebrate the year’s accomplishments and to congratulate the newly elected officials. New officers will officially start their one year term in 2012, at Midtown’s January meeting. Midtown Health Alliance meets every fourth Tuesday of the month to work on a variety of community and health improvement projects.

Officers pictured left to right: Scott Morgan, Co-Vice Chairman, Lynn Lincoln, President, Joyce Raynor, Co-Vice Chairman, and Dee Dee Wallace, Secretary.

COALITION OF THE MONTH

Faulkner County – Concerned Citizens Advisory Group

The Concerned Citizens Advisory Group (CCAG – Faulkner County) has completed many activities during 2011 that focus on the groups **All Hazard Community Preparedness** goal. The chairman and members have completed the Faulkner County Office of Emergency Management Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The coalition facilitated a day long emergency planning meeting with Greenbrier School Officials that was attended by over 15 agencies and 50 community and school representatives. ADH's Cassie Cochran presented to the community group about the process to organize and staff a Medical Reserve Corp Team. A Conway physician has agreed to accept responsibility as a medical director and CCAG is making progress with a 501©3 agency to act as a fiduciary agent for the MRC team. Requirements to volunteer as a Medical Reserve Team Member include registering on line at Arkansas System of Emergency Response Volunteers (SERV). <http://www.healthy.arkansas.gov/programsServices/preparedness/Pages/SERV.aspx>

SERV is a system to preregister and credential volunteers so that they are ready to be deployed during a natural disaster, terrorist attack or public health emergency. There are also additional educational requirements to participate as an MRC member. The primary course is NIMS 700- An introduction to the National Incident Management System. On Saturday November 5, 2011 (10:30 to 5:30) – Aaron Adams with the Public Health Preparedness Branch of ADH presented the community coalition with the full day training that provides instruction concerning the consistent nationwide template to enable all government, private-sector, and non-governmental organizations to work together during domestic incidents. CCAG also celebrated on the same day the coalition's one year anniversary and served lunch for the NIMS class participants and community members. Deer season and a Hog's game kept many from attending. Plans are being made to hold additional NIMS training classes in other areas of Faulkner County and a repeat for those in Greenbrier that missed the November 5 class. Please contact Emily.Harris@arkansas.gov if you would be interested in attending a NIMS training class or registering as a Faulkner County Medical Reserve Corp team volunteer. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Concerned Citizens Advisory Group in Faulkner County they meet the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 to noon at the Greenbrier Events Center.

Bicycle Friendly Community



Four years of community effort came to fruition Sunday, Oct. 30, when Conway was officially recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.

Mayor Tab Townsell, the Conway Advocates for Bicycling, and other local cycling enthusiasts gathered at Simon Park in downtown

Conway at 2 p.m. for the official recognition. Attendees participated in a short ride after the event. The Faulkner County Healthy Weight coalition partnered with the Conway Advocates for Bicycling during this last year to help bring bicycle safety rodeos to the Conway schools.





A Healthier Future For All Arkansans
SAVE THE DATE: February 28 & 29, 2012
Wyndam Riverfront, North Little Rock
2012 HHI Sustainability Conference

Look for agenda and registration info after Dec 15 on www.healthy.arkansas.gov



Objectives:

- (1) To assist communities to develop, implement and monitor a community health improvement plan using Healthy People 2020 goals and objectives that are based on community priorities
- (2) To engage multiple sectors to take actions to strengthen policies and improve practices that are driven by evidence
- (3) To highlight community successes in a variety in venues

No Registration Fee!

Pre-conference workshop starts at 9 am 2/28

Conference starts at 11:30 on Feb 28.

For more information on attending or exhibiting: contact Emily Harris at emily.harris@arkansas.gov or call 501-280-4692

WEBSITE LINK TO REGISTER:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/yo6IDM9stEGeVEDGUZDfqA/7mh7/P1/1Q>

